

REMARKS

This application pertains to a novel adhesive tape, having a plasticized polyvinyl chloride backing and an adhesive composed of an aqueous dispersion of styrene-acrylate copolymers.

Claims 1 and 3 -13 are pending.

The specification stands objected to because the Examiner views the specification as lacking support for the expression "a layer of a primer", as recited in claim 8. Claim 8 has now been amended to recite "an adhesion promoter", for which support can be found at page 6, line 18. The objection is thereby believed to be obviated, and should now be withdrawn.

Claims 12 and 13 stand rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicants regard as the invention. The Examiner contends that these claims do not recite any method steps.

Both of these claims have now been amended to recite articles, and the rejection is believed to now be obviated. This rejection should now be withdrawn.

Claims 1, 4, 5-7, 10, 12 and 13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Hauber

(Derwent Abstract of DE 4228436A1) and English Translation of DE 4228436A1 (provided by the Examiner).

Applicants' claims all require styrene-acrylic acid derivative copolymers.

The Examiner contends that this limitation is met by the DE reference because the DE reference recites "...a pressure sensitive adhesive mixture in the form of an aqueous dispersion comprising acrylic acid and styrene...".

However, an aqueous dispersion comprising acrylic acid and styrene is a completely different composition than an aqueous dispersion of styrene-acrylic acid derivative copolymers.

The Examiner has not shown that the DE reference teaches or suggests any adhesive comprising the copolymers recited by Applicants' claims, and therefore the DE reference cannot be seen as teaching or suggesting Applicants' claims.

The rejection of claims 1, 4, 5-7, 10, 12 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Hauber (Derwent Abstract of DE 4228436A1) and English Translation of DE 4228436A1 (provided by the Examiner) should now be withdrawn.

Claims 1 and 5-7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Czerepinski et al (US

4,713,412).

The Examiner argues that Czerepinski et al teaches a copolymer of 35% Styrene and 3% acrylic acid. It is believed that the Examiner found this composition in Example 4, in Table III of the reference. The tests of Example 4 in the reference show that the composition of Example 4 was not an adhesive. More specifically, the composition of Example 4 had a shear adhesion of 0 and a peel adhesion of only 0.2.

Applicants' claims are directed to an adhesive tape having an adhesive which comprises an aqueous dispersion of styrene-acrylic acid derivative copolymers. The Examiner has not shown where any such **adhesives** are taught or suggested by Czerepinski.

The rejection of claims 1 and 5-7 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Czerepinski et al (US 4,713,412) should therefore now be withdrawn.

In view of the accompanying amendments and remarks, it is believed that claims 1 and 3 -13 are now in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of said claims by the Examiner is respectfully requested and the allowance thereof is courteously solicited.

CONDITIONAL PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME

If any extension of time for this response is required, Applicants request that this be considered a petition therefor. Please charge the required petition fee to Deposit Account No. 14-1263.

ADDITIONAL FEE

Please charge any insufficiency of fee or credit any excess to Deposit Account No. 14-1263.

Respectfully submitted,
NORRIS, McLAUGHLIN & MARCUS, P.A.

By William C. Gerstenzang/
William C. Gerstenzang
Reg. No. 27,552

WCG/zs
875 Third Avenue, 18th Floor
New York, NY 10022
(212) 808-0700
Fax: (212)-808-0844